

**GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY TASK FORCE
THIRD MEETING SUMMARY
November 28, 2001**

**Prepared by:
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Office of Conservation
Ground Water Management Staff
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SUMMARY

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION

Members of the Advisory Task Force discussed the issue of the Drought Condition Wells amendment proposed at the last Task Force meeting. A consensus was reached by the Task Force that Drought Condition Wells would only be used in an emergency; therefore, the farmer could not endure the time delay. It was recommended that the same 60-Day Waiver apply for Agricultural and Livestock wells. Commissioner Gautreaux recommended the 60-Day Waiver be accepted through the summer as written.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Duplechin informed the Task Force that the staff is working towards tracking the change in the use of wells and investigating ways to provide the information on the web page and provide online registration.

Water Well “Registration”

The Staff received thirty-nine (39) water well information sheets during the month of November, bringing the total number of registrations to one hundred fifty-five (155). We are looking into creating a water well database on DNR’s Strategic Online Natural Resources Information System, or SONRIS. We are also investigating the feasibility of using the system to allow the owners to fill out the well information sheets on-line.

Web Site

The following items were updated or added to the web page:

1. The last Ground Water Management Commission meeting transcripts and transcript summaries were posted on the web page. The Staff drafted a meeting summary for the last Advisory Task Force meeting and posted it on the web site as well.
2. Announcements and agendas for Commission and Advisory Task Force Meetings are also posted on the web site monthly.
3. A copy of the draft changes to the emergency rule is also posted on the web site.

Staff Response to Outreach Committee Request

The Staff put together an article for the Outreach Committee as requested. A copy of the article is in your packet. An electronic copy of the article was also transmitted to the Outreach Committee so they could make any changes or amendments they deemed necessary. The final version can be obtained from the Outreach Committee.

Just Cause Decisions by the Staff

The staff issued just cause decisions on two sites in New Orleans for sixteen (16) dewatering wells to be installed by Sewerage and Water Board. In addition, several calls were received by landowners or drillers requesting just cause waivers for types of wells that are already exempt.

ADVISORY TASK FORCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Agriculture Committee:

No Report

Ecology Committee:

No Report

Economic Development Committee:

No Report

Industrial Committee:

The Industrial Committee made three recommendations. The first recommendation was for the Ground Water Management Commission to take the position opposing local governments or municipalities' implementation of their own ground water management plans. It would not be in the states best interest to have 64 competing ground water plans. The Task Force agreed to propose this to the Commission.

The second recommendation concerned the Emergency Rule and how the wording would allow the Ground Water Management Commission members to fulfill their task, specifically section 3307: B 2. (a). The Task Force agreed on a change of wording to recommend to the Commission.

The third recommendation involved section 3307: B and place it in section 3309: A. The Task Force agreed to recommend this change to the Commission.

Outreach Committee:

The committee met on November 15, 2001 and drafted an article for publication. The committee plans to revise their short and long term goals. Committee Chair, Linda Walker recommended that the funding for publishing articles pertaining to Ground Water Management be included in the budget for the 2002 Legislative Session.

Technical Committee:

The Technical Committee will meet with the Consultant, C. H. Fenstermaker on December 17, 2001. This meeting will allow for the exchange of information with the consultants. The information to be transferred will include: Ground Water Data Sets available such as water level, quality and water use; pertinent publications such as Areal Extent of Recharge Areas, Surface Water/Ground Water interactions, etc.; surface water

data sets available including water level, water quality and water use; and publications such as low flow studies, annual data reports, and lake volumetric studies.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Gautreaux introduced the consultants chosen to develop a statewide ground water management plan. C. H. Fenstermaker gave a brief introduction of themselves pertaining to their role in developing the plan. Brad Hamilton informed the Task Force of the plan to have a web site to consolidate the information they receive and develop.

COMMENTS FROM THE TASK FORCE

No comments

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments

NEXT MEETING

Tentatively set for January 14, 2002 at 9:30 a.m. The location will be announced at a later date.